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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.     | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 09/931,710      | 08/16/2001  | Lloyd E. Thorsbakken | RA 5372 (33012/317/101) | 3426             |

7590 02/26/2004

Charles A. Johnson  
Unisys Corporation  
P O Box 64942 MS 4773  
St. Paul, MN 55164

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| EXAMINER |
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KNOLL, CLIFFORD H

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2112

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Applicati n No.</b><br>09/931,710 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>THORSBAKKEN ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Clifford H Knoll  | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2112                   |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 11 objected to because of the following informalities: Apostrophe at end of claim should be struck. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, "wherein said first component" (line 2) is not clear because it has no supporting recitation; it is perhaps intended to be deleted.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell (US 6330630).

Regarding claim 1, Bell discloses the first and second data buses (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9) and a circuit responsively coupled to both which combines the buses into a logical bus having a third set of different characteristics (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 2, Bell also discloses the characteristics are maximum transfer rates and that the third rate is greater than either of the first two (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 3, Bell also discloses the third transfer rate is the sum of the first and second rates (e.g., col. 17, lines 60-63).

Regarding claim 4, Bell also discloses the first and second maximum transfer rates are equal (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9).

Regarding claim 5, Bell also discloses the rate is 33 MHz (e.g., col. 5, line 9).

Regarding claim 6, Bell discloses buses coupled between components (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9) and a circuit responsively coupled to both which combines the buses into a logical bus (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 7, Bell also discloses the first and second characteristics of the buses and the third different characteristic (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 8, Bell also discloses first and second data transfer rates as the characteristics and a third transfer rate characteristic greater than either of the said first and second (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 9, Bell also discloses the third transfer rate is the sum of the first and second rates (e.g., col. 17, lines 60-63).

Regarding claim 10, Bell also discloses the first and second maximum transfer rates are equal (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9).

Regarding claim 11, Bell discloses first and second data bus provision (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9) and combining the buses into a logical bus with third set of characteristics (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 12, Bell also discloses first and second data transfer rates as the characteristics and a third transfer rate characteristic greater than either of the said first and second (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 13, Bell also discloses the third transfer rate is the sum of the first and second rates (e.g., col. 17, lines 60-63).

Regarding claim 14, Bell also discloses the first and second maximum transfer rates are equal (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9).

Regarding claim 15, Bell also discloses the rate is 33 MHz (e.g., col. 5, line 9).

Regarding claim 16, Bell discloses first and second means for performing data processing functions (e.g., col. 5, lines 20-25, "processor 10 or other processors", "90A and 90B"), first and second means coupled between processing means for transferring data (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9) and means for combining the buses into a logical transferring means with third set of characteristics (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 17, Bell also discloses first and second data transfer rates as the characteristics and a third transfer rate characteristic greater than either of the said first and second (e.g., col. 5, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 18, Bell also discloses the third transfer rate is the sum of the first and second rates (e.g., col. 17, lines 60-63).

Regarding claim 19, Bell also discloses the first and second maximum transfer rates are equal (e.g., col. 5, lines 7-9).

Regarding claim 20, Bell also discloses the rate is 33 MHz (e.g., col. 5, line 9).

### ***Conclusion***


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Klein (US 6311245) discloses a different method of combining buses to form a logical bus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clifford H Knoll whose telephone number is 703-305-8656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0630-1500.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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**XUAN M. THAI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
TC2100